

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Gospel taking fragile root among 'friendless' Kurds

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The world seems to have confirmed yet again the old Kurdish saying: "The Kurds have no friends, except the mountains."

The mountains ... and perhaps Christians, who have helped ease the Muslim people's hardships since the Persian Gulf War while spreading the gospel among them.

War and suffering opened the door, both to the 4 million or more Kurds in the north and the 16 million Iraqi Arabs who live in the southern part of the country.

Christians are working and praying to share God's love with both these "Last Frontier" people groups, who have little access to the gospel.

Five years ago the United States and its Desert Storm allies encouraged millions of Kurds in northern Iraq to rise up against Saddam Hussein after his crushing defeat in Kuwait.

They did — with disastrous results.

Saddam's still-intact forces hit back with typical brutality, driving thousands of Kurdish families into the freezing mountains.

Children and the elderly quickly began to die. The U.S.-led coalition responded by beginning "Operation Provide Comfort," a

supposedly safe haven in the north for Kurds until Saddam's expected fall from power — which never came.

On Aug. 31 Saddam's police forces returned to the Kurds' northern home — this time at the invitation of one Kurdish faction fighting another.

The move drew little reaction from the United States beyond a few air strikes at the other end of the country.

"Operation Provide Comfort" is apparently over.

Southern Baptists and most other Western aid workers left Iraq in September for their own safety.

Their Kurdish co-workers are desperately trying to get out to escape Saddam's secret police.

But even if 1996 marks the end of outside Christian presence among the Kurds of Iraq, the gospel of Jesus Christ has been planted once again.

"There is a church in northern Iraq," said a Southern Baptist worker in the Middle East. "It's small and pretty weak, but there is a church."

The "Jesus" film has been translated for Kurds. By the end of this year, a New Testament translation should be completed



Kurdish boys unload Southern Baptist relief supplies in northern Iraq to stem the starvation caused by the Persian Gulf War and Iraqi dictator Sadaam Hussein's recent invasion of their safe territory. Kurd employees of western relief agencies, as well as Christians among the Kurdish population are at risk of execution at the hands of Hussein's Revolutionary Guard. Southern Baptist workers and their families safely escaped the Iraqi invasion in early September, but concerns about 60 Kurdish co-workers and their dependents remain high. U.S. government authorities are so far only evacuating Kurds who worked directly with the American military operations in the area. (BP photo by Paul Obregon.)

— with the whole Bible expected to be available soon in both major Kurdish dialects.

Kurdish converts are proclaiming the gospel, including some who challenge their people to review their own history.

Before embracing Islam long ago, this ancient people — possibly descended from the biblical Medes — was heavily influenced by Christianity.

"I think God opened up the doors" after the war, the worker observed. "God uses crisis to wake people up and bring them to their knees."

Many Kurds also have opened their eyes to behold some new friends. Iran-style

Islam has a foothold in parts of Kurdistan, but numerous Kurds are "disillusioned with Islam," said the Southern Baptist worker.

"Saddam calls himself a Muslim and they're persecuted by him. Iran, Turkey and Syria persecute them.

"Muslim countries come in and build mosques for them, but that's about it. They're nice mosques, but the Kurds are still poor, hungry and uneducated."

Christian workers, meanwhile, came to feed the hungry, heal the sick and rebuild towns destroyed by Saddam.

"Kurds say, 'The Muslims don't help us, but the Christians do,'" the worker said.

Prayer Requests

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Here are prayer requests from Christians working to evangelize Kurds and Arabs in Iraq:

1) Pray that the fledgling Kurdish church of northern Iraq will survive and grow, and that believers will be granted the freedom to share their faith without fear of persecution or worse.

2) Pray for the completion and efficient distribution of the Kurdish-language New Testament and full Bible.

3) Pray that the Kurds will be spared a new round of destruction at the hands of Iraqi forces.

4) Pray that the Christian workers will gain wisdom for evangelizing their Muslim Arab and Kurdish neighbors.

5) Pray that the Christians will be able to provide medical care, clean water and food to the needy.

Go

Mike and Ginger Moskau had it all — a thriving construction business, lavish lifestyle, and more money than they ever dreamed of having. "Before we knew it, there was money all over the place. We just started walking away from the Lord and lived a jet-set life, basically. We didn't even make it to church on Christmas or Easter," Ginger said. With their relationship to God almost gone, the unthinkable happened. The construction business came crashing down around them and their five-and-a-half month pregnancy was entering a crisis stage. An emergency section was ordered, and their doctor warned them that the baby had only a 20% chance of surviving — only if the child was institutionalized with the inevitable birth defects that would occur. "We just started praying. We didn't know what else to do," said Ginger. Christy was born weighing 1.5 pounds and was hospitalized 11 weeks. Since then, 11-year old Christy has never had surgery, never worn eyeglasses, and seldom misses her school's honor roll. Now they know how God can work in a person's life. "We feel you have a responsibility if the Lord blesses you. You have a responsibility to use that blessing for him," Ginger said.

Worship Christ

All his life, Russian Vadim Jigoulov knew how to get ahead: worship Lenin. The communist party's slogan was always with him: "Lenin lived. Lenin lives. Lenin will live." At the age of 14, he was inducted into the Young Communist League and proudly wore his special Lenin lapel pin. College-educated and fluent in three languages, his rise to the top of the communist system was pre-ordained. Then an incredible event occurred: he found Jesus. After travelling Russia as a Christian evangelist for two years, he knew that God was leading him in another direction. He was ultimately able to combine that calling with the fulfillment of a lifetime dream. Jigoulov is now a student at New Orleans Seminary, studying in the master of divinity program in a country about which he could only fantasize a few years ago. He communicates with his family in Russia quite often, and his mother was able to pay him a visit this summer. "I believe God's Spirit came into my life and took my imperfect considerations and turned them into something good. An act of grace, I guess you'd say," he explained.

Looking back

10 years ago

Jessie White, retired head of the Biological Sciences Department at Delta State University in Cleveland, donates a tract of land adjoining the Delta State Baptist Student Union to the BSU in memory of his late wife, Minnie Patton White.

20 years ago

The fate of the old gymnasium at Gulfshore Assembly, which survived Hurricane Camille in 1969 but was gutted a few days ago by a late-evening fire of undetermined origin, is again in doubt as part of the assembly's future.

50 years ago

Mississippi's first-ever Baptist State Music Convention opens at First Church, Jackson. The convention is the long-held dream of Luther A. Harrison, the first state music director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

WILLIAM H. PERKINS, JR.

A prayer for the innocents

When I first heard on the afternoon of Sept. 26 that the U.S. Senate failed to override President Clinton's veto of the bill that would have banned partial birth abortions, I turned in my Bible to Matt. 19:13-14.

Then I wept.

I wept for the thousands of perfectly-formed, full-term babies who have been destroyed and are yet to be destroyed by this ghastly procedure.

A partial birth abortion is accomplished by forcibly wrenching a baby from its mother's womb, completely delivering the baby except for about an inch of the top of its head, and then killing it by piercing the skull and sucking out its brains.

As long as that tiny portion of the baby's head remains in the birth canal, the procedure is a legal abortion and not a live birth.

That technicality means the procedure is available throughout the full nine months of pregnancy.

So what's the difference between partial birth abortion and first-degree murder? About one inch.

I wept for the childless couples without number who yearn for just one chance at parenthood, who would gladly adopt so many of these infants without hesitation.

Adoption served for ages as the best way to deal with "inconvenient" pregnancies, but our society has shunned this viable system in favor of the quicker, less embarrassing method of simply discarding the baby.

Thank God for the Christians in the crisis pregnancy movement who are working to turn around that situation.

I wept for the mothers and fathers and grandparents of those dead babies who will carry a lifetime of emotional and spiritual scars, which undoubtedly will affect their relationships with God and the people they love.

Brenda Pratt Shaefer, a substitute nurse contracted to work at a clinic

that performed partial birth abortions, lasted one day at her new job.

She witnessed three partial birth abortions in that one day, describing how a young single mother, facing this crisis in her life all alone, cried out to God as she held her dead son and pleaded with God and her child to forgive her.

I wept for the lack of conscience in our culture that excuses this infanticide as "necessary" and "unavoidable," even though the most eminent obstetricians and gynecologists in the country have publicly condemned this procedure as wholly unnecessary and potentially dangerous to the mother (see "The Wall Street Journal," p. A-22, Sept. 19, 1996).

Most of my tears, however, came as I prayed for the souls of those babies and asked my Savior to forgive us for allowing this modern-day Slaughter of the Innocents.

I know how he feels about the little ones.



Guest opinion...

Words hardly describe devastation wrought by world hunger

By Paul G. Jones II



"Hunger (hung ger), noun - the weakness, debilitation or pain caused by lack of food."

The dictionary definition of hunger is inadequate.

There are no words that describe the continual day and night craving for food, or the slow wasting away of the flesh.

We try to describe hunger so perhaps we can try to understand something that is not a part of our understanding.

What words can describe a mother's clinging to her dying baby because there is no milk?

What words can describe a little girl living out her last months on the street, too weak to fight any longer for food?

What words can describe the elderly woman — a brown-painted skeleton — as she waits and even prays for death?

Often our words build a wall between us and the incomprehensible human suffering throughout the world.

Words can hide the reality and bring us an emotional and spiritual distance that allows us to build a wall between us and the human suffering that we encounter.

Even our definitions mask the fact that around the world, 20 persons die every minute from lack of food.

Ten million people a year no

longer worry about the definition of hunger — they have starved to death or died from hunger-related diseases.

As Christians, the roots of our understanding of hunger are deeply grounded in biblical teachings.

Hunger and poverty are closely linked in Scripture.

God's concern and compassion for the hungry, the poor, and the homeless fill the Bible.

Is it possible that this compassion is the second most dominant theme in the Old Testament, exceeded only by God's judgment on idolatry?

In his symphony of praise and worship in Psalm 107, the Psalmist extolled the people to remember the wonderful blessings of God. In the midst of such praise he reminds us of those who experience no such provision.

There are those in the deserts of life who "hunger and thirst, their souls fainted" (Psalm 107:5).

It is obvious that the "haves" of life are no more deserving than the "have nots."

The pain of hunger in the psalms was not the result of the lack of faithfulness, for the hungry are some of the redeemed of God.

All of Scripture exposes a God who cares deeply about those who are wasting away amid the opulence of life.

God made his concern even more explicit in the person of Jesus Christ: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and the recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised" (Luke 4:18).

The goal of every Christian is to be more like Christ. Jesus did not mince words when it came to his followers' responsibility to the poor and hungry.

He spoke of counterfeit disciples who did not visit prisoners, who gave no clothes to the naked, and offered no food and drink to the hungry and thirsty (Matt. 25:45-46).

The word of God and the teachings of Christ demand compassionate ministry to the hungry.

We are called to help the hungry and thirsty of the world so their souls will not faint.

For more information on Southern Baptist efforts to combat world hunger, contact the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Jones is CAC executive director.

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'96 Mississippi Baptist Convention sports four-session format

By Tim Nicholas

The 1996 meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson, on Oct. 29-30 will be a shorter version of earlier annual conventions.

This year's meeting will have four sessions, instead of five as in the previous two years. Members of the order of business committee have promised there will be time for all necessary business.

The program begins at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday Oct. 29, and concludes at 11:30 a.m. the next day.

Order of business committee chairman Ken Anderson of Saltillo noted that the shorter convention will allow messengers time to

get to their home churches for Wednesday evening services.

Business to be conducted during the convention includes consideration of a 1997 Cooperative Program budget of \$24,145,086; reports of convention agencies and institutions; voting on resolutions brought by messengers; and election of a president.



Causey

Jimmy Porter, pastor of First Church, McComb, is eligible for a second one year term as president. Porter will deliver the president's message during the first session of the convention.

A message by Richard Jackson, director of the Jackson Center for

Evangelism and Encouragement at Howard Payne University, in Brownwood, Tex., will close the first session.

Clarence Cooper, pastor of Emmanuel Church, Grenada, and first vice president of the convention, will preach the convention's annual sermon during the second convention session.

The Tuesday evening session will be led by Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The closing session on Wednesday morning will feature a message by



Hamlin

Mildred McWhorter, retired home missionary to Houston, Tex.

The Bible Treasure devotionals, given during the first, second, and fourth sessions, will be delivered by Robert Hamblin, professor of evangelism at New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans.

A special feature of the convention will be "My Journey in Christ," consisting of testimonies by retired church staffers Joe Ratcliff of Collins; James O. Bickham of McComb; and David McCubbin of Meridian.

A special presentation called

"Faithful Through the Years" will honor ministers age 65 and over.

Special music will be presented by the sanctuary choirs of First Church, McComb; Emmanuel Church, Grenada; the Mississippi Singing Churchmen; the Mississippi College Concert Chorale; and One Voice.

Accompanists will be Eva Hart, pianist, and Glenn Crosthwait, organist. Both are music staffers at First Church, Jackson.



Hart



Crosthwait

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Mississippi College students killed in automobile accident

Four Mississippi College (MC) students died in the early morning hours of Sept. 18 when their car skidded off a dangerous, rain-slick section of Interstate 20 in Jackson and crashed upside down on the street 30 feet below.

Killed in the accident were Lauren L. Williford, 20, of Biloxi; owner of the blue Ford Tempo in which the students were riding; Jennifer L. Jones, 23, of Palatka, Fla.; Brian Codd, 24, of Tucson, Ariz.; and Mike Raymond Powers, 25, also of Tucson.

No other vehicles were involved in the 12:30 a.m. accident, Jackson police reported, and no witnesses

have been located. The accident occurred during heavy rains as a cold front moved through central Mississippi.

MC student Matt Ellis told "The Clarion-Ledger" newspaper in Jackson that the four students were on their way to meet him at a popular late-night coffee shop in downtown Jackson when the accident occurred.

Ellis could have been the fifth victim of the accident. He was in the car with his four friends just before they left, but he told "The Clarion Ledger" he decided to drive his car to the coffee shop because Williford's car would have been too cramped with five people.

Howell W. Todd, president of the 3,340-student college affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, led a student-organized prayer meeting on the afternoon after the accident.

A memorial service was held Oct. 2 on the school's Clinton campus.

The deaths of the four students mark the second consecutive school year in which MC students have died in auto accidents.

In April 1995, David Campbell Doty was killed when his car was involved in an accident with a dump truck not far from the school's campus.

Doty's father David serves as minister of music at First Church, Brookhaven.

The twisting, multi-curved section of Interstate 20 that claimed the four lives is well known to local residents. In July 1995, an 18-wheeler flipped in almost the same spot and killed the driver.

Records kept by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety indicate 19 additional, non-fatal acci-

dents have occurred at that spot.

The Mississippi Highway Department is inspecting the site for possible safety improvements.

Books, coats needed for Kyrgyzstan

The Mississippi Christian group that conducted a successful 1995 vitamin drive for children living behind the former Iron Curtain is at it again, this time collecting Christian books and children's coats for the people of Kyrgyzstan, a newly-independent former republic of the Soviet Union.

"Your Christian books and children's outgrown coats can make someone's day in Kyrgyzstan, so clean out those closets and shelves," said Mary Miller, president of International Business Partners in Clinton and a member of Broadmoor Church, Jackson.

The books and coats will be shipped to Kyrgyzstan for distribution by members of Cooperative Services International (CSI), a branch of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, she explained.

Miller said the books and coats should be in good condition — clean, mended, no missing buttons, etc. The items should be turned in at either Broadmoor Church, Jackson, or First Church, Jackson, by Oct. 15.

For more information, contact Miller at (601) 856-6526 or (601) 373-4220.



Presenting the first arson fund check to Beacon Church, Yazoo City were (front row from left) Charles Thomas, pastor of Beacon Church; Daisy Thomas, pastor's wife; Don Wilson, director of the MBCB Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department; (back row from left) David Raddin, pastor of First Church Yazoo City; Jerry Alexander, MBCB member, Yazoo association; Tommy Guthry, member of the building committee; and Jim Everett, pastor of Southside Church, Yazoo City. (Photo by Carl M. White)

First arson fund check disbursed to burned Beacon Church, Yazoo

A check for \$21,000 was presented by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) on September 25 to Beacon Church, Yazoo City.

Beacon Church suffered an arson-related fire on the morning of Sunday, August 4th, damaging one of the two double-wide mobile chapels provided the church by MBCB.

Don Wilson, director of the MBCB Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department, presented the check to Charles Thomas, pastor of Beacon Church.

"This is money the Lord has provided," Wilson said at the presentation of the check.

The money comes from a special church rebuilding fund established by the executive committee of the MBCB on June 19 of this year.

It also includes arson funds collected in a special offering for burned out churches at the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans this June.

The money will be deposited in a special account with Yazoo Association.

Yazoo and Warren Associations, along with First Church and Southside Church of Yazoo City, are assisting Beacon Church in a building project.

Currently, there is over \$33,000 in the Beacon Church building fund, with \$7,000 donated by Beacon Church members.

According to Thomas, since the fire the church day school enrollment has grown to over 45 and there is now a waiting list.

Attendance at church services have also increased. A family of

four joined the new fellowship since the fire, Thomas said.

A building Committee with representatives from Beacon Church, Yazoo and Warren associations is overseeing the project.

The burned trailer was one of 13 mobile chapels owned by the MBCB and used in mission and church planting.

"Fortunately, the trailer did not suffer any structural damage," said Wilson.

It is being repaired by Bob's Mobile Homes of Ocean Springs, who custom made all 13 mobile chapels.

No arrest have been made for the attempted arson, according to Thomas.

An ongoing investigation is being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mississippi missionary couple among group going to Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (BP) — Four seasoned veterans of Foreign Mission Board (FMB) work have arrived in Bosnia and are seeking out hearts open to the gospel.

The missionary couples — with a combined 90 years' experience in cross-cultural evangelism and church planting — each volunteered to serve six months in Bosnia, where 44 months of intense ethnic warfare left people wondering what hope they have of finding peace.

"We were surprised when the war started," said Misko Horvatek,

a pastor in Krapina, Croatia, and secretary of the Croatia Baptist Union. "We never thought that would happen. It shocked people and made them think."

"Now people are ripe to be harvested. We need workers to shake the tree."

More than 2 million of Bosnia's 3.6 million people were driven from their homes by the fighting, according to the United Nations. Through their "My Neighbor" humanitarian aid organization, Croatian Baptists distributed more than \$2 million of Southern Baptist

relief funds throughout Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia.

Along the way, Croatian Baptists shared the good news of God's love, and many people — Muslim, Serb, and Croat — responded to Christ. Mission leaders needed experienced evangelists and church planters to step in and build on the foundation laid by wartime ministries.

Two couples — **Wayne and Florence Frederick of Mississippi** and **Jim and Jean Leeper** — are serving in Tuzla, a key multiethnic city in eastern Bosnia. The other two couples — **Robert and Jerry Worley** and **Charles and Bobbie Miller** — are serving in Sarajevo, the capital city.

"We know God uses disasters like this war to open people's hearts to the gospel," said Robert Worley. "We prayed when we were asked about going to Bosnia. We felt like God said 'go.'"

Two other couples are being recruited for six-month terms, perhaps to serve in Banja Luka, a key northern city, said **Mississippian Larry Cox**, who directs FMB work in central Europe. The greatest need, however, is for career missionaries who can give long-term direction to the new ministries.

"We have many opportunities now that the war is over," said Croatian Baptist President Branko Lovrec. "This is a most crucial point in our history. We must not miss this opportunity."



Southern Baptist missionaries headed to Bosnia include (from left) Charles and Bobbie Miller, both from Fort Myers, Fla.; Jim and Jean Leeper from Dayton Ky., and Battle Creek, Mich., respectively; Robert and Jerry Worley from Floyd, N.M., and Dallas, Texas, respectively; and **Wayne and Frances Frederick from Shannon, Miss., and Edwards, Miss., respectively.** (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

NOBTS bivocational music class open for enrollment at four sites

October 14 begins the sixth of eight courses at four locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Seminary.

These courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors or educational directors in churches.

Eight courses meet two hours per week. Each course is eight weeks in length.

The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two year period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite.

There is a one time registration fee of \$25. The cost of each course is \$75.

Upon completion of the two year cycle, each student will receive a certificate from the seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward an on campus degree program.

The course "Music Administration/Staff Relationships" will meet once a week for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and times:

— Broadmoor Church, Jackson, beginning Oct. 14 (7-9 p.m.), Jimmy McCaleb, teacher.

— Antioch Church, Columbus, beginning Oct. 15 (7-9 p.m.), Ed

Nix, teacher.

— First Church, Purvis, beginning Oct. 14 (6:30-8:30 p.m.), James Hayes, teacher.

— Liberty Church, Liberty, beginning Oct. 14 (6:30-8:30 p.m.), Buddy McElroy, teacher.

"Project 25" continues. This is a cooperative effort of the New Orleans Seminary, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The first 25 bivocational music

directors to enroll will receive a one-time amount of \$100 to cover both the registration fee and the cost of the first course (excluding those already in the program.)

"Project 25" opportunities are limited to one musician per church.

Classes could be offered at other locations in the state where 10-12 students are interested in enrolling.

For information on the bivocational music class and other New Orleans Seminary activities, contact Chester Vaughn, 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS

James Walker, retired pastor, dies at age 76

Funeral services for James E. Walker were held Sept. 22 at Fifteenth Avenue Church, Meridian. Burial was in Mount Horeb Church cemetery.

Walker, 76, of the Zero Community, died Sept. 20 at Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center. Walker retired in 1983 after 44 years of ministry.

He pastored churches in Kemper, Winston, Neshoba, Madison, Marion, and Lauderdale counties.

He was a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Survivors include his wife Bonnie Robbins Walker; a son, Ronny Walker of Ruston, La.; two daughters, Sherrie Meilstrup of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Robin Young of Long Beach; a brother, Howard Walker of Jackson; two sisters, Evelyn Griffin and Joyce Clark, both of the Zero Community; seven grandchildren; one step-grandchild; and a great-grandchild.

WCC scholarship awarded to state Bible Drill winner

William Carey College announced that Stephanie Leigh Hanberry, member of Oral Church, Sumrall, has been awarded a State Bible Drill Winner's Scholarship that covers tuition for four years of study at the Baptist-affiliated college in Hattiesburg.

In addition to her participation in Bible Drills on the state level, she has participated in Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir, and through her local church she has joined three mission trips to Mexico and worked in Missouri flood relief.

She is also active in the church choir, youth choir, and Acteens. Hanberry attended Mississippi School for Math and Science, where she was chosen

for hall council representative, Spanish Club, Beta Club, and Student Government Association officer.

Doug Benedict, director of missions for Lamar Association, said, "Stephanie is reaping the rewards of hard work and commitment. The scholarship awarded by William Carey College recognizes the attributes required to win the Bible Drill are also those that produce leaders of tomorrow."

Benedict credited the entire congregation of Oral Church and particularly Billie Barrett with producing one of the most successful programs in the state for Bible Drill participants.

Barrett has directed a program that involved 156 young people over a five year period, producing many winners.

Stephanie joins her sister Melody at William Carey College. Melody, a music major, is also a major scholarship winner.



Baptist colleges fare well in annual U.S. rankings

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)—Several Baptist colleges and universities were listed in "U.S. News & World Report's" 1997 "Best Colleges" rankings released in September. Two Baptist schools received first-place rankings.

The University of Richmond (Va.) placed number one in overall academic quality among universities in the South.

Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, placed first in two categories — "most efficient" and "best sticker price value" among liberal arts colleges and universities in the West.

The overall academic quality rankings are based on academic reputation, student selectivity, faculty resources, financial resources, retention rate and alumni satisfaction.

The "most efficient" rating is based on a school's score in the "U.S. News" survey of academic quality divided by its educational

expenditure per student.

"These institutions get the most out of their educational expenditures," according to "U.S. News."

The "sticker price" rankings are based on the magazine's academic quality ratings divided by the total of tuition, required fees and room and board for the 1995-96 academic year.

The "U.S. News" rankings are based on surveys of 1,422 accredited four-year colleges and universities, verified through research by the "U.S. News" staff.

Regional "best values," included **Mississippi College, Clinton**, fifth.

"U.S. News" also rated schools by the least amount of college-related indebtedness carried by graduating seniors. Furman was the only Baptist school in the listing at number 13 among national liberal arts schools.



Shady Grove First Church, Heidelberg, celebrated its 151st homecoming on Aug. 18. Over 150 church and family members participated in a memorial candle lighting service for former church members that had gone on to be with the Lord. Lunch was served and the Magnolia Boys of Laurel conducted the afternoon song service. Local church talent complimented the program for the day. Stanley Doggett (pictured) is pastor.

World hunger giving aids all-night street ministry

By Mary E. Speidel

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP) — Two Brazilian mothers sleep cuddled with their children under the ledge of a shop as rain pelts the sidewalk in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It's unusually cool tonight in this tropical city.

"Wake up! Jesus is calling!" sings Brazilian Baptist Henrique Cesar Gomes.

Brazilian evangelicals holding a kettle of hot food and a jug of juice. "This is food for your life," Gomes says. Slowly the street people emerge from their shelters. "We're here preaching Jesus Christ," he tells them. "Have you ever heard about Jesus?"

The evangelicals hand out evangelistic tracts. Gomes, who directs Christian social ministries for Rio's Carioca Baptist Convention, explains the plan of salvation.

They pray with the people and tell them where to find more help the next morning. At churches across the city, social workers will be available to help them leave the streets.

"We bring you the love of Jesus in a material

way," says Jacy Curvachu, a retired Brazilian Baptist lay woman.

"I take my hat off to Brazilian Baptists — that they're trying to do

something," says Marilois Kirksey, a Foreign Mission Board missionary who is social ministries consultant for the Brazilian Baptist Home Mission Board.

Tonight, Kirksey sloshes through the rain with Brazilian volunteers. By 5 a.m., they're soaked and cold.

They head back to Rio's Presbyterian Cathedral, where they and other teams will report how God used them on the city's streets.

Sometimes up to 1,000 evangelicals participate in the program, part of Brazilian Baptists' Good Samaritan Project.

Gomes started the all-night ministry using Baptist volunteers. Other evangelicals asked to help.

Among Good Samaritan's biggest success stories are former street kids living at a halfway house in a thriving area outside Rio.

The program at the house is partly financed through the Foreign Mission Board with more than \$77,000 in world hunger giving by Southern Baptists.

Southern Baptists have designated Sunday, Oct. 13, as World Hunger Day, during which they will recognize human needs throughout the world.

Through August they have



A homeless man (center) on the streets of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, receives a hot meal and a gospel witness from Brazilian Baptists Henrique Cesar Gomes (left) and Edilton Lima (right). Gomes heads Christian social ministries for Rio's Carioca Baptist Convention, while Lima is currently a seminary student. (BP photos by Don Rutledge)

given nearly \$3 million this year for world hunger and relief overseas.

Foreign Mission Board officials expect more than \$5.8 million by the end of year, the first increase since 1992.

Last year \$5.7 million funded 225 projects in 62 countries.

Helping meet needs at the Rio

halfway house is Brazilian Baptist Bernadete Sobral, the children's housemother.

Like them, she "came from the mud," she says.

"It brings me joy to help restore these lives. They're our tomorrow," she says.

Speidel writes for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Former street kids in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil have found friends in Henrique Cesar Gomes (facing camera, left) and Bernadete Sobral (facing camera, right). The children live in the Good Samaritan Project's halfway house for former street kids.

The women stir. Other nearby street people peek out of cardboard boxes draped with plastic sheets.

They see about a half dozen

CLC targets persecution, employs 3 staff members

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Voicing concern over increasingly frequent reports of Christian persecution, trustees of the Christian Life Commission expressed vigorous support for a day of prayer for believers being persecuted for their faith — keystone of a resolution passed during the Southern Baptist Convention last June.

Trustees also moved to expand the staff of the Southern Baptists' agency for ethical, moral, and religious liberty issues during the Christian Life Commission's semi-annual trustee meeting Sept. 10-11 in Nashville, Tenn.

Joining with the World Evangelical Fellowship and others, trustees indicated their support of the worldwide day of prayer for persecuted Christians, Sept. 29, by agreeing to underwrite the cost of mailing an information packet to

every pastor in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The board agreed every effort must be made "to make Southern Baptists and Christians everywhere aware of the persecution Christians are suffering around the world," calling on Southern Baptists to exhort the U.S. government to pressure governments which are allowing the persecution within their borders.

In their action approving three new employees, the trustees voted to employ Jeff Carter as director of citizenship concerns and legal counsel in the commission's Washington office. Carter recently served as minister to married adults at Second Church, Houston.

Also approved was Barrett Duke Jr. as director of convention relations in the commission's Nashville office. Duke fills the

position vacated by Lamar Cooper's departure to Midwestern Seminary as academic dean. He is currently pastor of First Church of Highlands Ranch, Littleton, Col.

Steve Nelson was named director of hunger concerns, a new position made possible by cooperative funding from Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, and

the CLC. He was pastor of First Church, Lafayette, Tenn.

Charles Betts, pastor of First Church, Vandalia, Ohio, was re-elected chairman of the trustees.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to hold fall assembly on Oct. 19

Keith Parks, global missions coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) will be the keynote speaker at the annual CBF of Mississippi fall general assembly on Oct. 19.

The 1996 fall assembly marks the fourth anniversary of the state organization. Parks, former president of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and missionary to Indonesia, will lead in the morning worship session.

The assembly will be held at Highland Colony Church, 1200 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with the annual business session scheduled for 10 a.m. Worship will start at 11 a.m., followed by lunch and three afternoon break-out sessions before conclusion at 2:30 p.m.

The afternoon sessions will include Parks speaking on global missions; Jane Allison on WMU/CBF relations; and members of University Church, Hattiesburg, on their mission trip with CBF missionaries Nell and Butch Green in their Florida ministry to people with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers.

A catered lunch will cost \$6 per person. Child care will be provided at no charge. However, lunch and child care reservations must be made in advance, no later than noon on Oct. 14. To place reservations or for directions to the church, call the CBF office in Jackson at (601) 355-7824.

A pre-assembly retreat will

begin at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at Northminster Church in Jackson. Nancy Holloman Peede, associate pastor at Northminster, will lead the retreat, entitled "Discerning Times: A Call for Prayerful Attentiveness." Although there is no fee for the retreat, participants need to reserve a space by calling the CBF office.



Oct. 6 - Bold Mission Thrust Launch Day

Sara Wilson, a volunteer at Rachel Sims Baptist Center in New Orleans, portrays one who understands the need for missions and has dedicated her life to showing and telling others about Jesus. She reminds us of Bold Mission Thrust Launch Day. "Meeting missions needs with volunteer resources" is the mission statement of Volunteers in Missions. One Home Mission Board Bold Mission Thrust Launch goal is to have 77,000 volunteers by the year 2000.

Candlelight vigil slated by mental health group

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill will host an Open Your Mind National Candlelight Vigil beginning at 7 p.m. on Oct. 6 at the Jim Buck Ross Agricultural and Forestry Museum on Lakeland Drive in Jackson, according to James Nations, Baptist-affiliated chaplain and director of pastoral services for Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) at Whitfield.

"We encourage Baptist churches and church members to attend this event and also to become more involved in mental health issues," Nations said.

For more information on the candlelight vigil or mental health services in general, contact MSH communications division at (601) 351-8018. For more information on MSH pastoral services, call (601) 351-8000, ext. 4357.



Oct. 6 - Soul Winning Commitment Day

As this young lady shares the gospel with another in downtown Atlanta, Christians are reminded to turn their attention to Soul-Winning Commitment Day. The call to tell people about the love of Christ has been given to all. Soul Winning Commitment Day is an important day because it allows congregations to unite as people of God who seek to understand and commit themselves to reach baptism goals. "Carry the Light!"

Pastoral Care Week scheduled at Miss. Baptist Med. Center

Calvin Miller, Southwestern Seminary professor and author of more than 30 books, will speak at a seminar Oct. 21 as part of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's observance of National Pastoral Care Week. The seminar will be held from 8:45 a.m.-3 p.m. in the G. I. Foy Auditorium at the corner of North State and Fortification Streets in Jackson. Theme for the seminar is "Storytelling as Pastoral Care," in which Miller will discuss the use of storytelling as an integral part of



Miller

the pastoral care ministry.

Pastors, laymen, and the public are invited to attend the seminar, which costs \$15. Lunch will be provided. Continuing education units will be awarded through the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Department of Education and the college of chaplains.

To register or for more information, call the Pastoral Care Department at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center at (601) 968-5146 or send tuition before Oct. 14 to Paul G. Stephenson, Pastoral Care Department, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, P. O. Box 23668, Jackson, MS 39225-3668.

Thomas Thornton, retired minister, dies at age of 71

Thomas Bruce Thornton, 71, died March 3 in New Albany. He was a retired Baptist minister and a member of Canaan Church. He pastored churches in Benton, Tippah, Marshall, and Neshoba counties. Thornton was active in the Gideon Ministries, and a volunteer chaplain at the V.A. in Memphis.



Thornton

Survivors include his wife Josephine Thornton, Ashland; two daughters, Christine Webb and

Bonnie King, both of Ashland; one son, Gerald Thornton, Bartlett, Tenn.; two sisters, Erma Daniel, Ripley, and Myrtle Duncan, Millington, Tenn.; one brother, Ernest Thornton, Ripley; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Church Media Library Conference set for Oct. 18-19 at First, McComb

The 25th Annual Church Media Library (CML) Conference will be held October 18-19 at First Church, McComb.

The conference begins with registration at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 9 p.m. on Oct. 18. The Oct. 19 session begins at 8:15 and concludes at noon.

"Mississippi Baptists involved in any facet of the church media library (CML) ministry are encouraged to attend," said Farrell Blankenship, director of the Department of Broadcast Services (DBS) at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

The focus for 1996-97 is media libraries ministering to children, their teachers, and their parents by providing and promoting the use of media and media services designed to help them learn and grow according to God's plan.

Conference leaders include David Tiller, newly-appointed director of CML at the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville; Barbara Freese, Steve Gateley, and Pat Brown, CML consultants at BSSB; Jackie Anderson, retired CML senior staff consultant at BSSB; and Linda Reeves, preschool consultant for the MBCB Sunday School Department.

Courses being offered this year include:

— Dewey For The Next Generation.

— Sears For The Next Generation.

— CML101: An Overview and Building a Healthy Collection, taught by Pat Brown.

— Media Preparation: Print, Media Preparation; Audiovisuals and Accessorizing Your Media Library, taught by Barbara Freese.

— Automation 101/102: Why Automate and How to Do It;

Automation 102: Introduction to Computers; Automation 102: Lab; and Basic Administration of a Church Media Library, taught by Steve Gateley.

— Ministering to Children Through Media; and The Child and Salvation, taught by Linda Reeves.

— Promotion Design: Visual, Promotion Design, Activities, Promotion Sampler, and The Church Media Library Ministry, taught by David Tiller.

— Beyond the Basics: Classification and Cataloging, taught by Jackie Anderson.

— Feeling at Ease with Audiovisual Hardware, taught by Farrell Blankenship.

Special conference features will include the Baptist Book Store exhibit; Jackie Anderson sharing in opening session her favorite books; and Linda Reeves sharing an inspiring interpretation of the 1996-97 theme, "Ministering to Children."

The dinner speaker on Oct. 18 will be author Terri Blackstock, a member of First Church, Jackson.

With 3.5 million books in print worldwide in the secular market and her readership at an all-time high, Blackstock decided to switch publishers and make a commitment to use her gift of writing in a Godly manner.

Her current works include



Available in 20 ft. to 33 ft. models (12 to 38 Passenger)

"Evidence of Mercy," "Justifiable Means," "Ultior Motives," and "Never Again, Good-bye."

Conference attendees must make their own lodging reservations. For a list of motels, contact DBS at the telephone numbers listed below. When making motel reservations, be sure to ask for Mississippi Church Media Library Conference rate.

Conference registration fee is \$10 per person, which includes lunch and dinner at the church on Oct. 18, and conference materials.

Reservations are needed. The deadline is being extended until October 11.

Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mail to Broadcast Services/CML, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

For more information contact DBS at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

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Mississippi messenger total ranks third at SBC

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Messengers from Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi churches topped the registration list at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans in June, with six states representing more than 52% of the total count, according to an analysis of the 1996 convention by Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary.

Porter said 14 states' messengers registered 89.7% of the total of 13,706 messengers in New Orleans.

States representing the top 10 in registration, in order, were:

Georgia — 1,274; Louisiana — 1,218; **Mississippi — 1,202**; Tennessee — 1,159; North Carolina — 1,154; Alabama — 1,121; Texas — 1,064; Florida — 1,018; South Carolina — 776; and Kentucky — 613.

Porter said the 1996 annual meeting registration had some interesting comparisons to the last time the SBC met in New Orleans, in 1990. The 1990 meeting registered 38,403 messengers.

There were fewer churches represented in 1996 compared to 1990, Porter said, but 1996's mes-

sengers spent more, were from larger churches and included more men than in 1990.

In 1996, messengers were from 5,605 churches compared to 12,000-plus in 1990, Porter said. There were more males registered in 1996, 59.4% of the total, than in 1990 with 53.4%. There was a 5% increase in the number of messengers from churches with more than 500 members in 1996 compared to 1990.

Porter's analysis revealed the typical messenger in 1996 spent \$600 while in New Orleans com-

pared to 1990 when \$300 was spent.

Georgia messengers topping the 1996 list was not surprising, Porter said, since in 1990 Georgia ranked second behind Texas in the totals. But Texas in 1996 dropped to seventh in the list with 1,064 messengers compared to 1990's total of 4,793.

Although Georgia's messengers came from 468 churches, the state with the largest number of churches represented was North Carolina with 498 followed closely by Mississippi with 488.

Only Delaware, Rhode Island, and Vermont were not represented in the list of messengers, repre-

sented the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota each had one messenger while the District of Columbia, Maine, and South Dakota each had two.

Fifty-eight churches at the New Orleans meeting had the maximum number of messengers allowed — 10. Churches with only one messenger totaled 1,346 while another 2,816 had two messengers, most probably the pastor and his wife, Porter said.

Porter, SBC registration secretary since 1978, is a retired Baptist Sunday School Board official who now lives in Lawrenceville, Ga.

Staying Well Informed

Grief Counseling: Helping Heal the Scars

The loss of a loved one is one of life's most painful experiences. Those left behind may have a difficult time healing their emotional scars. Sometimes the process of getting on with life is delayed for years or decades. Many psychologists and counselors stress the value of dealing with pain as soon as possible, so the healing process can begin.

"Current literature indicates that it takes the average person 36 to 48 months to work through a grief experience," says the Reverend Paul Stephenson, director of the Pastoral Care Department at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. "During that time, having counseling can often be critical to returning to normal life."

MBMC offers a comprehensive program of counseling for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Pastoral Care counselors are available around the clock to provide comfort, assistance and spiritual guidance to family members. Samaritan Counseling Center counselors will provide counseling for up to a year or more after the loss occurs.

Once every six weeks, two memorial services are held at the Medical Center for the families and friends of those who have died recently. October marks the fourth anniversary of these services, which are held in the Private Dining Rooms in the main hospital building.

Local ministers help conduct the memorial services which include scripture readings, music and reading the names of those who have died. Guests are invited to attend, and often include family members and friends from hundreds of miles away. Members of the Pastoral Care and Samaritan Counseling Center staff, all of whom have had grief resolution counseling, are available to listen to family members who wish to talk about their experiences.

"Memorial services provide an opportunity to express our continued ministry to the larger community," Stephenson notes. "It's an expansion of the mission and ministry of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center to provide Christian healing."

To find out more about grief counseling or other services provided by MBMC's pastoral care department, call the number below.

Understanding the Benefits of Grief Counseling

Call 948-MBMC or 1-800-948-MBMC (6262) for reservations or more information.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

Homecomings

Antioch, Leakesville: Oct. 6; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds following services; Kenny Goff, former pastor, guest speaker; Jerry Corley, pastor.

Enon, Grenada: Oct. 6; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; 11 a.m. preaching by Ray Burks; lunch, and afternoon singing with The McMillians; Al Finch, pastor.

Courtland (Panola): Oct. 6; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; 1:30 p.m., singing; Reuben Trussell, pastor, speaker; Andrea McPhail, Oxford, music; other participants include Pat and Rex Cole, Lee Hudson, Batesville, and The Gospel Grass, Hernando.

McAdams (Attala): Oct. 13; 11 a.m.; noon meal; afternoon singing; Dalton Haggan, Crystal Springs, guest speaker; James Young, pastor; McAdams Church, formerly Samaria Church, was organized in 1849.

First, Itta Bena: Oct. 12-13; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; noon meal; Joe Nanney, Spindale, N. C., guest speaker; Chuck McMinn,

Meadville Church, music; Saturday, Fish Fry, 5-6:30 p.m., A night of praise, 7-9 p.m.; Higdon Herrington, pastor.

Spring Hill, Waterford: Oct. 13; 10 a.m., noon meal, and 2:30 p.m. singing; Paul Middleton, pastor.

Mt. Pisgah, Enid: Oct. 13; activities will include singing following a noon meal; Aubrey Martin, speaker; Anita Sykes and Melanie Whitten, singers; also participating will be Michael Worsham, Steve McGregory, Dick Hill, and Joe and Sandra Allen; Dennis Harris is pastor.

Carey Chapel, Red Banks: Oct. 20; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; 1:30 p.m. service, music by the Bumpas Family and The Carey Chapel Four Plus One; Jack Gregory, pastor.

Blythe Creek, Mathiston: Oct. 20; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; gospel singing with Gospelaire, Pontotoc, 1:30 p.m.; Danny Irvin, pastor.

Convention News

New Orleans Seminary Alumni Mississippi Luncheon: noon, Oct. 29, First Church, Jackson, Fellowship Hall East; tickets \$10.00; reservation deadline, Oct. 14; Seminary representative, Robert Hamblin; make check payable to Immanuel Baptist Church and mail to: Dr. Nathan Barber, Immanuel Baptist Church, 510 Weathersby Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

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Letters to the editor

Seeking nominees

Editor:
Bill Marshall, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention for the past 14 years, has announced his retirement in February 1997. The search committee to nominate his successor invites your participation in this important process. We covet your prayers and ask for names and resumes of anyone you would have us consider. Quick response is needed.
Peggy Hicks
9820 Longwood Circle
Louisville, KY 40223.

Hymnal donation

Editor:
Fredonia Church, New Albany, has old Baptist Hymnals to give to any church or mission requesting them. Contact the church at (601) 534-3436 or 534-9656.
Joe Herndon, pastor
Fredonia Church
New Albany

Hall family news

Editor:
I read with great interest the article regarding the Hall family of Florida in the Aug. 29 issue of "The Baptist Record." I would like to tell you that Mississippi is also being blessed by this great family of six generations of Southern Baptist pastors. Roscoe Hall, 97, of Florida is the father of our pastor, J. Wilbur Hall and is also the father of Martha Ann Crowell, wife of Grady Crowell, director of missions, Clarke Association. Both of these offspring have sons-in-law who pastor Mississippi Southern Baptist churches.

Ray Spence (pastor of Unity Church, Pascagoula) is married to Amanda Hall Spence, and Timothy McCaffrey (pastor of Clear Branch Church, Florence) is married to Naomi Crowell McCaffrey.

I thank God for allowing me to know some members of this family with roots so deeply embedded in serving the Lord.
Glenda Kittrell
State Line

More news on Halls

Editor:
Here is some additional information on Anthony Hall "All in the Family" (page 1, Aug. 29 issue). Hall has some pretty strong roots in Mississippi. His mother, Ann Booth Hall grew up in Mississippi in Whitesand Church, Jefferson Davis/Covington Association, and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. I. V. Booth are still active in that church. His mother, father, and sister all graduated from Mississippi College as did three aunts and uncles. These three are still serving in Mississippi: Mr. and Mrs. Grady

Crowell, Quitman Association; Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Hall, George Association; in addition to my wife and me.

Thought you might like to know the rest of the story. Thanks for running the article on Anthony.

Jim Booth
Brandon

Of one accord

Editor:
I am Southern Baptist and intend on staying Southern Baptist, but I do visit different denominations from time to time.

I was really impressed when I visited the Brounsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Fla. They started a revival Father's Day, 1995 and it's still going on. I felt God's presence so strong in that church.

One thing that impressed me was a Methodist preacher was doing the baptizing for them on one of the nights I went. Pastors of different denominations were on stage, and helping out any way they could. They were all of one accord. I've been twice, plan to go again. I wish we could have a revival like that close to my home, so I could go more often.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all God's born again children could be of one accord? Then we would have a revival.

Zelle Manning
Morton

Spared by God

Editor:
On the morning of August 27, the women's prayer group of Clear Creek Church (Lafayette Association) made its way to the sanctuary at 10 a.m., only to discover that a fire had occurred



Clear Creek Church fire damage

hours earlier. The smoke still lingered despite the fact that the fire was now out. Sometime in the night an air conditioner thermostat mounted on the back wall of the sanctuary caught fire. This sent smoke and flames up the wall. Just inches away hung a ten foot satin banner containing the "Names of Jesus," which was

smoked up but did not burn.

A wooden rail inches away was scorched and the carpet below caught fire, burning a two-foot semi-circle below the choir pew.

We are convinced that the Lord spared our church from the flames, and we realize that only he could have kept the fire from spreading to our entire facility.

We are convinced even more than before that our God is an awesome and a powerful God.

Charles Lipe, pastor
Clear Creek Church
Lafayette Association

The Lord works

Editor:
Charles Jones, Baptist Chaplain, Parchman, was to be our special speaker at First Church, Aberdeen. He was also to be my speaker in the Adult V Sunday School Dept. I have had the honor to lead for 16 years. I was inspired following our State Mission Program which allocates \$30,000 to this part of missions.

I went to get my favorite Bible I like to take to Sunday School, only not to find it. It perhaps is down at the church with other "lost Bibles." So I used a brand new Bible on my book shelf, a large print edition by Scofield.

The Lord began to speak to my heart and say, "Why don't you take this to Brother Jones to give to an aged prisoner who might need larger print?" I did and I asked my pastor, Paul Matthews if this would be appropriate, to which he agreed.

Bob Kelly, deacon, made the presentation to which Jones responded emotionally. "I can't believe this! I had an aged prisoner come up to me last week two times and ask 'When are you going to get me a large print edition of the Bible?'"

My 100 members of Adult V clapped their hands in joyful response. The Lord does work in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform.

Sarah Peugh
Aberdeen

Wyoming Bibles

Editor:
As missions development director for the Green River Association in Wyoming, I am writing to make a special request to the churches of Mississippi.

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Our associational council has adopted the recommendation that we share the gospel with every household in our association in the next associational year beginning Oct. 1.

Our association here in southwest Wyoming covers 11 communities of various sizes and several other pockets of people.

The population of this area is approximately one-tenth of the population of our entire state. Our association is comprised of six churches and four missions located in five of the 11 communities.

We are asking primarily for help in gathering up unused New Testaments for this project.

Many churches may have copies of "Good News America, God Loves You" and "Here's Hope Jesus Cares for You" or other New Testaments that are in storage left over from earlier Home Mission Board efforts of simultaneous revivals across America.

We would ask churches to consider giving and shipping them to Green River Association for this effort.

The associational office is located at 295 Monroe Avenue, Green River, WY 82935. Pray for us in this enormous undertaking.

At present, we have approximately 2,500 New Testaments on hand but still need 13,500 more.

We are well aware of the immensity of this task but feel God's leadership in this direction. All assistance from God's people would be much appreciated.

Charles Grubb
Green River, Wyo.

Pastor needed in Italy

Editor:
Aviano Baptist Church in Aviano is located in a military community in northeastern Italy, and was recently notified that our present pastor would be leaving in February.

A Pastor Search Committee has been formed and is seeking an individual who, in accordance with the Lord's will, desires to be the spiritual leader of our congregation.

We are a congregation of 120 members with an average atten-

dance of 130. The average age of the church members is 26 to 28. Our budget for the current year is \$95,000. Aviano Church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English language), which is aligned with the European Baptist Federation and the Baptist World Alliance.

Our church is founded on traditional Southern Baptist principles and doctrine but due to the limited numbers of other Christian denominational churches in the area, many of our members have other than Baptist backgrounds.

Inquiries should be addressed to: Jim Eason, PSC 54 Box 2052, APO AE 09601.

Jim Eason, chairman
Pastor search committee
Aviano Church; Aviano, Italy

Editorials commended

Editor:
The trustees of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) want to convey to you their deepest appreciation for and prayerful support of your recent editorials on moral and ethical issues.

At our meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 10, the CAC unanimously voted to affirm your courageous stand, prophetic vision, and your willingness to address moral issues with biblical clarity and editorial preciseness.

We urge you to continue to courageously address the pressing moral issues of our day. We pledge to you our continued prayers and support as all of us who are concerned about biblical morality and Christian ethics work to transform our world for Christ. Again, please accept the thankfulness of the trustees of the Mississippi Baptist CAC.

Tommy Tutor, chairman
Christian Action Commission
Jackson

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Just for the Record

The Department of Christian Studies at Mississippi College will host two educational travel tours: Israel '97 on Dec. 30, 1996-Jan. 9, 1997, and Greece '97 on June 4-16, 1997. The tour is limited to 15 persons and the cost of \$2,230 plus the standard gratuities fee of \$45, based upon the rate of exchange as of May 1 and is subject to change. For more information, contact Roger Greene at (601) 925-3291 or mail inquiries to P. O. Box 4022, Clinton MS 39058.

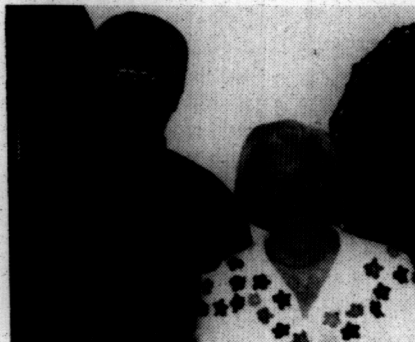
"Women in Business," a one-day workshop offered by the Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education, is scheduled for Oct. 19. The workshop will be held from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The cost of \$45 per person and includes lunch. The program will be presented by Larry Boggs, founder and president of Boggs and Associates, a financial services firm specializing in financial management strategies for both individual and business clients. To register before the deadline of Oct. 15, call (601) 925-3264.

John Long will lead a study of end times in the Pace Building at Pinelake Church, Brandon. The study will be held from 5:30-6:15 p.m. during the four Sundays in October. Paul Stephenson is the interim pastor. For more information, call Bob Buckner at (601) 992-4140.

The William Carey College Theatre will present a new, original musical comedy, "It Could Have Happened Once Upon A Time," as its first major production of the 1996-97 season. Performances are 8 p.m. on Oct. 10-12. The production is Carey's

entry in the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival. Seats may be reserved by calling (601) 582-6221. The box office will be open from 1-4 p.m. beginning Oct. 7. Regular admission is \$8, the cost for students is \$4.

New Home Church, Scott Association, will have a dedication and note burning ceremony for its new sanctuary on Oct. 13 at 11 a.m. A noon meal will be served. Wayne McGee, pastor, will be the speaker.



The Winters School of Music at William Carey College is the recipient of a Knabe grand piano valued at \$18,000, a gift from Mary Elizabeth Ainsworth Edington of Fort Myers, Fla. Edington, a native of Bay Springs, is the daughter of Nancy Robbins Ainsworth who in 1939 attended Mississippi Woman's College, the predecessor of William Carey College. The piano was given by Edington in memory of her mother. The piano is housed in the choir room of the Thomas Fine Arts Building where students will be allowed to practice on it. Pictured with Edington is Milfred Valentine, dean of the Winters School of Music.

Old Fashioned Day will be

observed at **Concord Church, Booneville, Oct. 6.** Displays of antiques and other memorabilia will be set up in fellowship hall. Antique cars and an old grist mill will also be on display. Other activities include dinner on the grounds. The evening services will be conducted by lamplight, with old time singing. Concord was in existence in 1848, as a member of the Chickasaw Baptist Association. Robert E. Walker is pastor.

First Church, Flowood, will sponsor a Family Fall Festival and Old Country Store on Oct. 5 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call (601) 939-4366 or 939-5772.

Staff Changes

Liberty Church, Flowood, has called **Sean W. Palmer** as minister of youth, effective Sept. 12. A native of Gulfport, Palmer received his education at Belhaven College, Jackson.

Ricky Young and Jon Daniels have joined the staff at First Church, Jackson. Young is serving as minister to senior high students. A native of Pontotoc, he is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. He previously served at Istrouma Church, Baton Rouge, La. Daniels is serving as minister to junior high students. A native of Cleveland, he is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previously place of service was First Church, Brookhaven.



Pocahontas Church, Pocahontas, recently honored Gladys Rees for more than 30 years of serving as Sunday School and Stewardship secretary. She has also served as Discipleship teacher, chairperson of the social committee, member of Christian Action Committee, nominating committee chairperson, assistant treasurer, pulpit committee member, and Bible School worker. Jackie Stewart, Sunday School superintendent (right) is pictured presenting Rees with a plaque. Steve Jordan is pastor.

Revival Dates

Hermanville (Union): Oct. 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 6 p.m. service with music by Cornerstone Quartet; Port Gibson; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Floyd V. Riggs, former pastor, Henderson, Nevada, evangelist.

North Winona, Winona: Oct. 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon with covered dish meal and 7 p.m.; John D. Wilton, evangelist; The Brad Jones Family, music; Terry L. Long, pastor.

Rock Hill, Brandon: Oct. 4-6; Fri. and Sat., 7:30 p.m.;

Sunday, 11 a.m.; Baptist students from Mississippi College, Jeff Powell, director, will be in charge of services; Tim Canterbury, pastor.

Pope (Panola): Oct. 6-9; Dean Timbes, New Albany, evangelist; Linda Madden, New Albany, music; Jimmy C. Bryant, pastor.

New Zion, Liberty: Oct. 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. worship, lunch, and 1 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sammy McDonald, Vicksburg, evangelist; Kenneth Dixon, music; Mark Wicker, pastor.

Names in the News

Mississippi native **Melanie T. Lawler** was one of 22 US-2 missionaries commissioned on Aug. 11 at Glorieta Conference Center during Student Week. Originally from Carthage, Lawler is assigned to Las Vegas, Nev. as a church planter strategist. She is a graduate of William Carey College.

Carol Durham will present an organ concert at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, 2:30 p.m., Oct. 6. The concert will include works by Bach, Franck, Barber, Krapf, and Simpson. Durham recently celebrated her 20th anniversary as organist at Morrison Heights

Church. She is a graduate of Mississippi College and the University of Tennessee. For more information call (601) 925-6434.

Weaver McCracken, associate, Department of Student Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), received the degree of doctor of philosophy on May 11 from the University of Mississippi in the School of Education in the area of Educational Leadership. He has been on staff with MBCB for eight years and was formerly director of Religious Activities at Mississippi College.

Homer D. Jenkins was ordained to the gospel ministry by New Ireland Church, Union, on April 28. Participating in the ordination service were John Sharp, John Boggan, Cartis Tucker, and Clay Thompson. Jenkins is available for service as pastor. His address is Rt. 2, Box 295, Union, MS 39365, and he can be reached by phone at (601) 635-3647 or 1-800-261-3647.



Lillian Lowe (center) was recently honored at First Church, Houston, on "Lillian Lowe Day." She has served for 55 years as Sunday School and Training Union teacher, GAs, RAs, Bible Drill leader, and WMU director. Lowe is pictured with Al Gaspard, pastor, and Mrs. Gaspard.

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Family Bible Series

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Searching for justice and truth

By Jim Phillips
Jeremiah 5: 1-6

We live in a day where integrity and honesty are often rare characteristics in the lives of many people. Absolute truth is no longer expected to be the manner in which people deal with other people. Much of society has determined that no real moral or spiritual absolutes exist to govern their way of life. You do what you can, with who you can, to get what you can. If you arrive at that point honestly, so be it. If you have to cheat and steal your way there, big deal. It doesn't matter how you got to where you are so long as you get there.

Have you ever thought that you were above all this integrity stuff? After all, if you're going to get a jump on life you may have to crawl over a few bleeding backs to get there. Just step on the guy or girl ahead of you so long as you get ahead.

Jeremiah lived in a day whereby God decided to take a walk among the people and do a heart check. You know, see if there were to be found people of honesty and integrity in the land. He didn't just look anywhere, he looked among his own people. (Kind of like what he might do among the pews and pulpits of our churches on Sunday morning.) Searching to see if his grace and mercy could be made available for the purpose of cleansing and making hearts right (v.b). When God came looking, he didn't like what he found. He told Jeremiah that he was looking for just one honest soul in the city. He found zero! Jeremiah must have felt a little like Abraham when he pleaded for the town of Sodom (Genesis 18). Abraham believed that he could find at least a few honest souls there that would cause God to not destroy the city. He didn't have any luck either.

When God searched the holy city, he looked first at the common people (v.4). Here he would find people who had been instructed in the things of God and had responded positively and faithfully. Here would be people who were faithful to the teachings they had heard from their preachers and thus they would be behaving righteously and reverently. NOT! God found instead corruption and sin. Well then, go look among the leadership. Seek out those who were actually called of God and surely there God would discover faithfulness and integrity. No such luck either (v.5). Jeremiah quickly ran out of options. The great and the small were equally at fault before God. God's promise of judgement and destruction would be forthcoming. Where he looked for people committed to him and thus to others, he found none. Jerusalem would be destroyed.

God described for Jeremiah the severity of Jerusalem's pending fall (v. 6). They would be attacked as a lion after its prey. They would be dragged off and devoured all because God's people were no longer acting like God's people. The New International Version of verse 6 is most appropriate. It states, for their rebellion is great and their backslidings many.

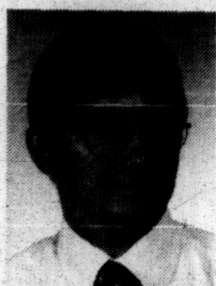
What does God expect of us? More than most of us think. He doesn't expect one lifestyle from the man in the pew and a different lifestyle from the man in the pulpit. All of us are to live as obedient people. He searches us all to find those he can count on and use for his purposes. When we backslide, what we've really done is fallen out of fellowship with God. Regardless of how we got there, God expects a turnaround. We cannot pretend as though we don't know any better. The more familiar we are with the truths of God, the more he holds us responsible for righteousness and reverence. And just how often does God come searching our churches and homes and neighborhoods looking for integrity in his people? Every day.

Are you backslidden? Are you lacking in your sensitivity to the things of God? If he searched your home right now, would he locate a man or woman of righteousness who desires what he desires? If not why not? God desires to have people who deal honestly and seek the truth so he can bless and use them for further glory. Evaluate the genuineness of your commitment. Allow God and not society to determine your decisions and relationships. God expects the best. Give it to him.

Phillips is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood

Explore the Bible

formerly the Bible Book Series



Worship and God's guidance

By Ronald Bishop
Matthew 1-2

The New Testament opens with one of the greatest stories of all time—the miraculous birth of God's son. Matthew was convinced of many things about Jesus that he considered of supreme importance. Among them were Jesus' place in the history of God's people, his virgin birth, and God's protection of Jesus during his early life.

Jesus' Family Tree (1:1-17)

Matthew traced the genealogy of Jesus all the way back to Abraham, indicating that Jesus was a Jew, a "son of Abraham." It is interesting to note that Matthew did not leave out any detail that some might find scandalous: Jesus was a descendant of Tamar who conceived by her father-in-law, Bath-sheba the adulteress, and Rahab, often thought to be a prostitute. Matthew's point seems to be that God can do great things despite human shortcomings.

Jesus' Birth (1:18-25)

Matthew was careful to point out that Mary and Joseph were betrothed, a formal engagement arrangement. Though they were quite close, Mary conceived "before they came together." Matthew was convinced of the virgin birth of Jesus. He also had found a verse in the Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures that seemed to validate this belief of Christians. Though the Hebrew of Isaiah 7:14 makes no reference to a virgin, the Greek version makes a shift in meaning by using parthenos, which can be translated "virgin."

Joseph had every right to expose and humiliate Mary, but he chose not to do so. His honor was rewarded when God informed him that this was a special child and that Mary had done nothing improper. God pointed out to Joseph that Jesus would save his people from their sins. Joseph's faithfulness to God is seen in his obedience. He awoke from the dream and did as God had commanded.

Two Journeys (2:1-15)

Like many modern people ancient people were inclined toward astrology and superstition. A group of wise men from the east, perhaps Persia, saw an astronomical display that they could not dismiss. They journeyed in the direction of the light and arrived in the Roman province of Judea. When these magi reported their mission, the Roman-appointed king of the Jews, Herod, became alarmed. If a new king were arriving, his own throne could be in peril. Herod pretended to want to worship the new king, though he really planned to kill him. He ordered the wise men to report to him when they should find the king. However, God warned the magi in a dream to go home another way, which they did.

God knew that Herod intended harm upon the child, so he warned Joseph in a dream and instructed him to flee to Egypt and take the child and his mother there. Joseph not only obeyed God, he also was prepared to stay in Egypt until God said it was safe to leave. Matthew also saw in this event a parallel in the Old Testament. He cited Hosea 1:11, where God is speaking of Israel. Though Matthew's method of proof-texting is not the best method of biblical study, it does provide interesting parallels.

The Danger of Absolute Power (2:16-23)

Powerful people usually do not take it well when they are outwitted. Herod was no exception. When he learned that the magi had disobeyed and tricked him, he launched a plan to achieve his initial purpose. He wanted to kill the newborn king. He did not hesitate to kill all the boys in Bethlehem of that age if necessary. In a furious rage, Herod slaughtered all the toddlers age two and younger. Finally, though, Herod died. Then God sent his angel to speak again to Joseph. God then brought his son and his earthly family out of Egypt and settled them in Galilee, in the city of Nazareth.

Bishop teaches philosophy and religion at Jones County Junior College, Ellisville.

Life and Work



A contract for life

By Cynthia Douglas
Ex. 19; Heb. 8, 9; I Pet. 2

How can I have a relationship with God? God's Word teaches He has provided a covenant of grace with those who receive His son Jesus Christ through faith. This covenant is a contract for an abundant life here and for life eternally. Our loving God has stated plainly how He wants us to live.

The focus of the next eleven sessions is the Ten Commandments. This study explores the foundation for the commandments. Later each of the commandments will be studied.

Redemption—the basis of God's covenant (Ex.19:3-4)

Redemption means to buy something back, to regain ownership by paying the redemption price. At the Red Sea, God redeemed His people from slavery in Egypt. In the Sinai wilderness, God reminded the people how He "had carried you on eagle's wings" (v.4). Eagles usually have to push the young eagles out of the nest to teach them to fly. Then the mother eagle will fly underneath and actually carry them to safety on her wings if needed.

God offered to make a covenant with Israel whom He had graciously protected. As their Redeemer, God had the right to offer the covenant and to give the Ten Commandments. He was the Lord God who had brought them out of Egypt.

God has a claim on lives today because of the great price Jesus paid for our sins. His grace covenant is extended to everyone who will accept by faith the free gift of grace.

Obedience—the demand of God's covenant (Ex. 19:5-6)

A covenant is an agreement between two parties. In this covenant, the agreement is between a God who is superior and Israel who is inferior. God set the terms of the covenant. The Israelites were to obey the covenant. They were given the choice of whether to accept or reject but they could not negotiate the terms.

God made wonderful promises to Israel based on their obedience. Obedience means to hear God's Word and act accordingly. His free and gracious grace demands our total submission and obedience. Have you entered into a covenant with God by trusting Him to be your Savior? If so, as believers, we are to be revealing God to all the world.

Christ—the mediator of God's new covenant (Heb.8:10-12; 9:15)

A mediator is a person between two parties who establishes an agreement and acts as a guarantor of that relationship. Jesus mediated a new covenant by His sacrificial death. This passage describes the new covenant as being a covenant of grace. God desires to be the one and only God in the hearts of the people He created. The Ten Commandments were enriched and enhanced by the coming of Jesus and His teachings. Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant. He fulfilled the Law by shedding His blood.

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, believers receive the promised eternal inheritance (v.15). God desires an intimate relationship now, and forever, with every individual. Does your desire match with the desire of God? Do you desire to do His will?

Christians—God's new people (I Pet.2:9-10) The church, the body of believers, is the elect of God. Believers are God's people belonging to Him - receivers of mercy and a chosen people. God's people once lived in darkness but now live in His marvelous light. Because believers are a royal priesthood, they have the responsibility to live a life which represents a holy God to a sinful world.

The covenant of the Old Testament and the Ten Commandments were given to be the standard of behavior for people to relate to God and to one another. The Old Testament records the failures of God's people to be obedient. The New Testament challenges us to a higher standard, to love God completely, and to love others as He loves us. Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior?

Douglas is a member of First Church, Columbus.

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A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mr. James C. Peay
Charles Ziegler
Ms. Hillary N. Pulliam



Ed Nixon, Unit Director for Farrow Manor and Reedy Acres Campuses, (right) awards Kay West (left), her 20-year service pin. Kay has served as child care worker on The India Nunery Campus, Farrow Manor Campus and is currently serving on the Reedy Acres Campus in Water Valley. During Kay's tenure she has worked with both boys and girls in cottage life. Thank you, Kay, for making a difference in so many lives.

Missionary Braswell coming to state for recovery period

By Tim Nicholas

Larry Braswell, Boyle native and Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, will be returning to Mississippi with his family for a period of recovery from a Sept. 18 automobile collision with a Brazilian logging truck in which he suffered serious head and brain injuries.

Braswell struck the rear of the fully-loaded truck, causing a log to crash through the windshield and smash into his head.

Braswell's father-in-law, Bill Sellers of Brandon, said the Braswells will stay in the Alta Woods Church missionary residence in Jackson.

Accompanying Braswell's wife Alicia and their three children on the airplane flight will be Kathy Myatt, a missionary neurological

nurse. Braswell's mother, Glenda Braswell of Boyle, will stay with the family during recovery.

Sellers said the head injury is healing, but the blow to the head which caused a contusion to Braswell's brain has not healed as rapidly as expected.

Sellers said Braswell is experiencing short term memory loss and mood swings, which often are associated with brain injuries.

Braswell does not remember a four-day meeting he attended prior to the accident, Sellers said, but doctors in Brazil reported they expect full recovery.

A new law in Brazil requiring safety bumpers on the rear of logging trucks apparently saved Braswell's life, Sellers said, pointing out the

truck Braswell hit had the new bumper installed only a week earlier.

Otherwise, Braswell would have run under the truck and been killed, Sellers said.

Braswell's Volkswagen Jetta station wagon, with the roof pushed past the back seat, was sold for scrap iron, Sellers added.

Sellers said the family will not be receiving visitors at the present time, but cards and letters would be welcome. Their address is 442 Cummins Street, Jackson, MS 39204.

Braswell serves the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board as an evangelist and church planter. The family had been stationed in Chapeco, which is in South Brazil, for only two-and-a-half months.



Mississippi VBS Summit

Attending a recent VBS Summit at the Baptist building were, (front row from left), Sonny Adkins, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); Debbie Gibson, First Church Brandon; Brenda Davis, Gulf Coast association; Linda Reeves, MBCB; Alvena Williams, MBCB; (back row from the left), Archie Herrin, Director of Missions (DOM) Lawrence, Marion and Walthall associations; Brian Ivy, Highland Church, Vicksburg; Bill Smith, DOM Lee association; Marvin Howard, Mount Zion Church, Franklin association; Larry Garner, Metro association; David Wills, MBCB; Bill Duncan, DOM Clay, Lowndes and Oktibbeha associations; Keith (Tumbleweed) Wilkinson, MBCB; Mark Lott, MBCB; Larry Salter, MBCB. (photo by Carl M. White)

Group sets plan for taking Gospel to Cornwall, England

Covenant Ministries, Inc. (CMI), a Clinton-based evangelistic group, will partner with Ambassadors for Christ as the only evangelical organization in Cornwall, England, according to CMI president Brian Pannell, a member of Morrison Heights Church in Clinton.

Evangelical work in Cornwall

and Southern England is very weak, according to Pannell.

There are only five small evangelical churches in this area and many meet as home study groups, he said.

The area is spiritually oppressed and has been extremely active in the New Age movement, Pannell explained.

CMI has as its priority to spread the good news of Jesus Christ across the world, according to Pannell.

Since Ambassadors for Christ has established itself among the schools and government in Cornwall, this provides excellent opportunities for CMI and allows access into places that would not otherwise be open, he said.

CMI, working with Ambassadors for Christ, will be allowed to take the gospel into schools, churches, home study groups, and the community, he pointed out.

CMI also hopes to acquire resources appropriate for theological training of lay leaders who have no formal seminary training but are leading small churches, Pannell said. If tools are made available through a library/media center or training cen-

ter, leaders can be identified, developed, and trained so they can train others, thus allowing for growth and the spread of the gospel, he said.

CMI is planning an October trip to Cornwall. For more information, contact CMI at 1102 Laurelwood Drive, Clinton, MS 39056.

Gambling seen as winner in November's elections

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (ABP) — The gambling industry will win in this November's presidential election, regardless of its outcome, an investigative journalist told a Baptist gathering in Kansas City, Mo. The gambling industry has given \$2.5 million over the last four years to both the Democratic and Republican parties and to the presidential campaigns of both Bill Clinton and Bob Dole, said

Charles Lewis, executive director of the Center for Public Integrity. "The gambling industry cannot lose in November," Lewis said. "Their bets are covered." Neither Clinton nor Dole favors taxes on gambling, he said. Lewis, who spoke at a Sept. 16-17 conference at Holmeswood Church, Kansas City, based his remarks on a report released recently by his Washington-based non-profit organization. The meeting was the last in a series of three regional conferences this year on "Leadership Through the Culture Wars," sponsored by the Nashville, Tenn.-based Baptist Center for Ethics. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship helped fund the series.

Goodyear Church, Picayune planning 75th anniversary

A 75th anniversary celebration at Goodyear Church, Picayune, will begin with revival on Oct. 6-9. Kent Megehee, pastor of Plainway Church, Laurel, will be the preacher. Megehee grew up in Goodyear, was saved, called to preach, and ordained at Goodyear.

Three former pastors will speak during the celebration. They are

Hardy Denham, on staff with William Carey College; John Gilbert, retired director of missions, Franklinton, La.; and Darryl Wood, pastor of Moulton Church, Moulton, Ala.

Goodyear will celebrate homecoming on Oct. 27 and the new history book will be available on that day.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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LK GCL HCL HKGQ RK GQ QMHQYR RDQ
ICRDQB PDSHD DCRD XQLR GQ UBCP DSG: CLU S
PSOO BCSXQ DSG AY CR RDQ OCXR UCV.
NKDL XSM: IKBRV-IKAB

Clue: P equals W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last weeks puzzle: Romans One: One.

Baptist Record

Octo

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LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I'm preparing for my third wedding, and I really want this one to last. What can I do to guarantee I'll stay married?

Make sure that you are marrying a Christian who is actively following the Lord and living a Christ-centered life. If you're not sure you are marrying a man with Christ at the center of his life, take time to find out. A recent Gallup poll showed that for couples with Christ at the center of their individual lives, the divorce rate is only one out of 1105 marriages — considerably below the divorce rate for the general population. You must also be certain that your previous marriages ended on biblical grounds. Have you attempted to bring about reconciliation? Divorce is never God's best for his children, and we should never take lightly the marriage covenant into which we enter before God. It is essential that you begin Christian pre-marital counseling at least six months before the wedding. Locate a Christian therapist or pastor trained to administer the "Prepare Inventory," an excellent test for

determining personal strengths and weaknesses a couple must consider before making a lifetime commitment. Topics for discussion with your spouse-to-be: communications, finances, sexuality, and in-laws. Marriage should never be entered into lightly. Take your time; you'll be glad you did.

My daughter comes home from kindergarten with other children's toys in her backpack. How do I explain to her that this is stealing?

As a kindergarten-age child, she probably hasn't thought about the consequences of her actions on other people. Take your daughter's favorite toy and hide it. When she becomes upset because she can't find it, ask her how she feels and how she thinks someone else might feel without their favorite toy. Return the toy and let the reality of the situation sink in. These early lessons are crucial in making a difference in your daughter's life. The earlier such lessons are learned, the better for your child.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.